

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric A. Gifford on 12/03/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Please Cancel claims 46-47.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 19 and 41 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing risk related to a successful completion of a development project, comprising:

storing a probability of occurrence (Pf) table, a severity of consequence (Cf) table, and identified risks in a shared risk database, said Pf table having a plurality of risk categories for the development project, each said category having a plurality of table entries corresponding to different numeric Pf ratings, each entry including a ~~category-specific~~ standardized qualitative probability definition associated with the Pf rating wherein the standardized quality probability definition is specific to each category ~~and a severity of consequence (Cf) table, and identified risks in a shared risk database;~~

providing a risk management tool implemented on a computer, said tool

providing an interface to formulate an enterprise search of the risk database and performing the search to identify at least one risk;

for each identified risk, displaying the Pf table to prompt a user to select the one or more risk categories and for each said selected category to select the

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qualitative probability definition that characterizes the risk thereby specifying a probability of occurrence Pf for each said selected risk category for said at least one risk; and

for each identified risk, displaying the Cf table to prompt the user to select at least one severity of consequence Cf, said tool combining the selected Pf and Cf to calculate a risk factor Rf for each identified risk;

formulating a risk mitigation plan including at least one mitigation activity for said at least one risk, said tool calculating an associated risk exposure for said risk mitigation plan based on the probability of occurrence Pf and severity of consequence Cf for said at least one risk;

performing the at least one mitigation activity for said at least one risk to implement the risk mitigation plan;

as the risk mitigation plan is implemented over time, said tool displaying the Pf and Cf tables to prompt a user to reassess the at least one risk and select Pf and Cf, said tool updating the prioritized risk factor Rf;

said tool recalculating the risk exposure for the updated risk factors and displaying a chart of the risk exposure versus time as mitigation activities are performed and risk factors updated; and

adjusting the mitigation plan based on the risk exposure.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the table entries in the schedule impact category specify a project-specific amount in days, weeks or months and the table entries in the cost impact category include multiple sub-categories of project-specific cost impacts in actual dollars for the development project, said tool prompting the user to select a Cf rating for each said sub-category, said tool calculating and displaying the schedule exposure and cost exposure ~~scheduled-exposure cost-exposure~~ for all risks.

19. (Currently Amended) A web-based risk management system for managing risk related to a successful completion of a development project, comprising:

a server comprising a shared risk database that stores a probability of occurrence (Pf) table, a severity of consequence (Cf) table, risk identification information and risk mitigation information in a shared risk database, said Pf table having a plurality of risk categories for the development project, each said risk category having a plurality of table entries corresponding to different numeric Pf ratings, each entry including a ~~category-specific~~ standardized qualitative probability definition associated with the Pf rating wherein the standardized quality probability definition is specific to each category, ~~a severity of consequence (Cf) table, risk identification information and risk mitigation information in a shared risk database;~~

a web-based risk management tool on the server that provides standardized interfaces for searching, viewing and entering information to and from the shared risk data base via a web browser;

a communications network; and

a plurality of computer workstations in communication with the server via the communications network, each said workstation provided with a web browser to search the database using the standardized interfaces, said tool identifying risks and risk categories for each identified risk, said tool displaying the Pf and Cf tables to prompt a user to select an entry and its Pf rating from the Pf table for each risk category and an entry and its Cf rating from the Cf table and said tool calculating a risk factor Rf for each risk based on the Pf and Cf ratings.

41. (Currently Amended) A web-based risk management system for managing risk related to a successful completion of a development project, comprising:

a server comprising a shared risk database that stores a probability of occurrence (Pf) table, a severity of consequence (Cf) table, risk identification information and risk mitigation information, said Pf table having a plurality of risk categories for the development project, each said risk category having a plurality of table entries corresponding to different numeric Pf ratings, each entry including a ~~category-specific~~ standardized qualitative probability definition associated with a Pf rating wherein the standardized quality probability definition is specific to each category, said Cf and ~~a severity of consequence (Cf)~~ table having cost and schedule impact categories each having a plurality of table entries, each entry including a standardized qualitative impact definition and a project-specific amount associated with a Cf rating; ~~risk identification information and risk mitigation information;~~

a web-based risk management tool on the server that provides standardized interfaces for searching, viewing and entering information to and from the shared risk data base via a web browser;

a communications network; and

a plurality of computer workstations in communication with the server via the communications network, each said workstation provided with a web browser configured to search the database using the standardized interfaces, said tool identifying risks and risk categories for each identified risk, said tool displaying the Pf and Cf tables to prompt a user to select a Pf rating for each risk category and cost and schedule Cf ratings, said tool calculating a risk factor Rf as the product of the highest selected Pf rating and the highest selected Cf for each risk, said tool executing a mitigation search to formulate a risk mitigation plan including at least one mitigation

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activity for said at least one risk, said tool calculating an associated cost exposure and schedule exposure for the identified risks based on the Pf and Cf ratings,

as the risk mitigation plan is implemented over time, said tool via the web-browser displaying a chart of the cost exposure and schedule exposure over time, displaying the Pf and Cf tables to prompt a user to reassess the at least one risk and select Pf and Cf to update the prioritized risk factors Rf and adjust the mitigation activities based on the cost or schedule exposure.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. As per the Examiner initiated interview of December 3, 2009 the Examiner amendments above were agreed upon in order to place the application in condition for allowance.
3. Claims 1-11, 13, 19-23, 29-45 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In light of Applicant's arguments and current amendments it appears that the prior art of record, in the least, fails to teach and/or render obvious a method of managing risk related to a successful completion of a development project comprising, *inter alia*, storing a probability of occurrence (Pf) table, a severity of consequence (Cf) table, and identified risks in a shared risk database, said Pf table having a plurality of risk categories for the development project, each said category having a plurality of table entries corresponding to different numeric Pf ratings, each entry including a standardized qualitative probability definition associated with the Pf rating wherein the standardized quality probability definition is specific to each category. Further with respect to claim 1,

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the prior art fails to teach or render obvious, *inter alia*, the method calculating a risk factor and calculating an associated risk exposure for the risk mitigation plan based on the probability of occurrence Pf and severity of consequence Cf for at least one risk and further prompting the user to reassess to update and recalculate the risk factor and risk exposure to adjust the mitigation plan. Further with respect to claim 41, the prior art fails to teach or render obvious, *inter alia*, a system functionally operating where said Cf table having cost and schedule impact categories each having a plurality of table entries, each entry including a standardized qualitative impact definition and a project-specific amount associated with a Cf rating, and calculating a cost exposure and schedule exposure for identified risks based on the Pf and Cf ratings, further updating prioritized risk factors and adjusting mitigation activities based on cost or schedule exposure

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael M. Thompson whose telephone number is (571) 270-3605. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am-5:30 except Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael M Thompson/
Examiner, Art Unit 3629

/JOHN G. WEISS/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3629